

COVER

THE SEAL ON THE COVER IS THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF KINSTON WHICH WILL BE OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE CITY DURING 1962 AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY.

WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF THE SEAL IS THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OR ARMS OF KINSTON, SOMETIMES CALLED COAT OF ARMS. ARMORIAL BEARINGS OR ARMS MAY BE DEFINED AS A PICTURE USING SYMBOLICAL AND PICTORIAL LANGUAGE IN WHICH FIGURES, DEVICES AND COLORS ARE EMPLOYED INSTEAD OF LETTERS TO CONVEY A MESSAGE THROUGH DIRECT CONNECTION WITH SOME PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL, PLACE OR HISTORICAL EVENT. THESE ARMS BECOME THE TRUE, LEGAL POSSESSION OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR PLACE TO WHICH IT WAS ISSUED.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE COLLEGE OF ARMS IN LONDON, ENGLAND, OR THE COLLEGE OF HERALDRY AS IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED, HAS DEVISED FOR AND ISSUED TO A TOWN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SUCH ARMORIAL BEARINGS OR ARMS AS MAY BE SUITABLE TO BE BORNE BY THEM. THAT TOWN WAS KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OR ARMS HAS AS ITS CENTER THE TRADITIONAL SHIELD WHICH IS DIVIDED HORIZONTALLY INTO THREE PARTS, ITS CENTER BEING AN EMBATTLED ERMINE FESSE OR BAND WITH A WHITE BACKGROUND. IN THE CENTER OF THIS WHITE BAND IS AN ANCIENT THREE POINTED GOLD CROWN. THE ERMINE AND THE CROWN ALLUDE TO KINSTON'S ORIGINAL NAME OF KINGSTON. THE EMBATTLEMENT OF THIS FESSE SHOWS THE CIVIC AND RESIDENTIAL CHARACTER OF THE CITY. IN THE UPPER BAND OF THE SHIELD, ON A RED BACKGROUND, IS CENTERED A GOLD LION RAMPART, SIGNIFYING COURAGE AND FORTITUDE, BETWEEN TWO SPRIGS OF GOLDEN TOBACCO, WHICH REFER TO KINSTON'S PRINCIPAL INDUSTRY. IN THE LOWER THIRD, ON A GOLD BACKGROUND, IS A SWORD AND AN ARROW IN RED, AND WHICH ARE IN SAL-TIRE OR CROSSED, REMINISCENT OF THE TUSCARORA WAR. THE BLUE AND WHITE "WAVY BARRY" AT THE BASE POINT SYMBOLIZES THE RIVER NEUSE UPON WHICH THE TOWN IS SITUATED.

ON THE TRADITIONAL HELMET AND BLACK AND GOLD MANTLING IS THE CREST, CONSISTING OF GOVERNOR DOBB'S BLACK UNICORN'S HEAD (THERE WERE THREE OF THESE BLACK UNICORNS IN THE ROYAL GOVERNOR'S ARMS) HOLDING A GOLDEN SPRIG OF TOBACCO IN ITS MOUTH. THIS BLACK UNICORN ISSUES FROM A MURAL CROWN SYMBOLIC OF TOWNSHIP AND CIVIC ESTATE AND IS CHARGED WITH THE IMPORTANT DATE, 1762, IN GOLD. THE DATE, 1762, IS THE YEAR THAT THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF KINGSTON WAS ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF THE COLONIAL ASSEMBLY AND SIGNED BY THE ROYAL GOVERNOR, ARTHUR DOBBS. THE TOWN WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF KING GEORGE III. SUPPORTING THIS MURAL CROWN AND RESTING ON TOP OF THE SHIELD IS A BLACK HELM OR HELMET IN PROFILE WITH VISOR CLOSED SIGNIFYING THAT THE CIVIC ESTATE IS OF ESQUIRES OR GENTLEMEN.

ON EITHER SIDE OF THE SHIELD ARE THE TRADITIONAL SUPPORTERS. ON THE DEXTER, OR RIGHT, IS A FEMALE FIGURE PROPERLY DRESSED IN A SILVER GOWN WITH A BLUE CAPE HOLDING A CORNUCOPIA, REPRESENTING PROSPERITY. THIS FIGURE ALSO APPEARS ON THE SEAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA. ON THE SINISTER, OR LEFT, IS AN AMERICAN INDIAN, PROPERLY HABITED, A BRAVE OF THE NEUSE TRIBE SMOKING A "PIPE OF PEACE," EXPRESSIVE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ENGLISH SETTLERS AND THE LOCAL INDIAN TRIBE.

ON THE BASE IS THE MOTTO "FORWARD IN PROSPERITY" WHICH IS HOPED EXPRESSES THE FUTURE.

THIS DESCRIPTION WAS FURNISHED BY
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